



August 2007

Volume 52, No. 8

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

“Youth is, after all, just a moment, but it is the moment, the spark, that you always carry in your heart.”

—Raisa M. Gorbachev



MY HEAD AND HEART

are filled with the creative energy and learning that flows from spending a week in an intergenerational community charged with setting a vision and direction for Unitarian Universalist ministries with youth. (Youth in our Association are currently defined as adolescents between the ages of 14 and 20.) I have just returned from the UUA’s weeklong Summit on Youth Ministry held in Boston.

Thirty youth leaders and thirty adult leaders from around the United States and Canada were brought together to make recommendations for changes in our ministries with youth. The last time an event like this occurred was at a meeting known as Common Ground held in the early 1980s. It was during Common Ground that Liberal Religious Youth (the youth organization from 1954–1982) was disbanded and the current organization, Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), was formed.

One comment that recurred throughout this week in Boston was how culture and programmatic shifts in our youth ministries often foreshadow what is coming for the rest of us. Many UUs are aware that the American Unitarian Association merged with the Universalist Church of America in 1961, thereby forming the Unitarian Universalist Association. However, most are unaware that youth led the way. The American Unitarian Youth and the Universalist Youth Fellowship came together, forming a joint youth program known as Liberal Religious Youth in 1954, seven years earlier than the merger.

The vision and objectives named at the Summit on Youth Ministry will come out as a formal report to the UUA Board of Trustees this September. I encourage you to look at the report because the recommendations for our youth will no doubt have ripple effects in all of our congregations. Our conversations were based on information gathered by the Taskforce on Ministry with Youth over two years of conversations with thousands of youth and adults throughout our Association, including members of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship.

Several substantive shifts were discussed throughout the week, and I will mention a few of them here. One is that the UUA’s Youth Office and YRUU need to change how they do things to become more relevant to the lives of youth in our congregations. Another major shift is embracing our identity as a religious organization and creating youth communities that are spirit-centered and grounded in UU values, heritage and theology. A third shift was to reconnect our youth groups with the larger congregation. We imagine a future for our congregations where our children, youth, young adults, adults and elders have a chance to come together more often in all areas of congregational life.

Now comes the best part, bringing it home to our congregation. I invite all of you to get involved in some way with the following tasks:

- Think about the meaning and impact of our youth ministry
- Be courageous and create changes that deepen and enhance this ministry
- Honor the adult and youth who lead YAC, the youth group, and the Habitat trip
- View engaging and supporting youth as the responsibility of the whole congregation

In faith and fellowship,

Alison

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Summer Sunday Services: 10 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
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www.mUuf.org

From the Board of Trustees

Deeds Well Done

The Board wishes to recognize the following persons for their contributions to the Fellowship:

Danelle Simonelli and **Drew Hayes** for many wonderful years of Evensong.

Larry Nagel for paying all that attention to our computers.

Much appreciation goes to the members of the Spiritual Literacy Covenant Circle -- **Elbjorg Berkenkamp** and her granddaughter **Rachel, Charles Bordeau, Cecilia Cosca, Claire Mayer, Kathleen Taggart, and Jerry Weinstein** -- for doing the dirty job of helping to clean up the attic.

Mission and Covenant Statement

WE, the members of the **Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives.

This is our pledge:

- To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal.
- To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence.
- To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian-Universalist movement.
- To work for social justice and the well-being of our planet Earth.

Please E-Mail All NEWSLETTER Articles

—both print and online versions—

to editor **PAT BAXTER** at
melodylingers@verizon.net

by the **15th** of the month
preceding the one in which they will appear.

Thank you!

Upcoming Board and Network Meetings

Meetings are open to all Fellowship members. The meeting time is 7 p.m. *It is especially important for committee chairs and members who participate in Fellowship administration and programming to attend and participate in the Network meetings.*

This month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees August 8
The Networks will not meet in August.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June meetings have been approved and are posted on the bulletin board in Room 100 and on the website in the Members section.

Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!

The President's Corner, by Carol Todd

Join me in welcoming our four newest Board of Trustees members: Tony Rutigliano (Treasurer), Susan Lausell (Asst. Treas.), Mary Hodgson (Pres. Elect) and Steve Humphreys (VP-Admin Network). During our recent Board Retreat, I had the opportunity to appreciate the wealth of what each of them brings to the Board and how well we all work together.

Not enough can be said about the contributions of our outgoing Board members: Joe Uhrhane (President), Anne Paust (Treasurer) and Gloria Jackson (VP-Admin Network). Each of them has given *blood, sweat and tears* in so many areas of Fellowship life. When you see them, be sure to pat them on the back. They deserve it!!

This year's Board has an exciting and challenging year before us. The Fellowship has been on a wild ride the last five years, including one year of total staff turnover, two years of interim ministry, a new minister, the addition of a full-time administrator, the hiring of a part-time Music Director, and the decision to hire an Interim DRE and all that that implies.

We've also implemented the Admin and Program Networks in line with a smaller and more focused Board. Our adult membership has grown more than 10 percent in each of the previous two years, and our children's Religious Education programs have taken off. We are on a trajectory of growth.

During the coming year (2007-08) our task as a congregation is to clarify our mission and begin to

decide what that means for our future. In the fall we will engage in a process of sharing our dreams of who and what we want to be. We began this process during our interim years with the focus groups in homes, the Conversations in Community and the survey from the Ministerial Search Committee and, subsequently, calling a minister who will lead us to the future we envisioned. Based on the changes we've made in the past two years and the growth that we see, it's now time to take the next steps.

Personally, I feel the energy and excitement each time I walk in the front door. We are an incredible group of people, if I say so myself. Our future is whatever we want it to be. We are committed to spreading the news of Unitarian Universalism and to building a religious home for ourselves, our children and future generations. I look forward to continuing the journey with all of you.

On the path,

Carol Todd, President

MUF Awarded Roof Repair Funds



MUF has been awarded a historic preservation grant of \$385,000 by the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust for Phase 1 of our roof and water drainage system (gutters, downspouts and underground drainage lines) replacement project. Steve Rice, as a member of the Beautification & Preservation Committee, put together the application for MUF.

We'll be required to provide a "match" contribution of 20% (\$79,000) and hope to apply for a grant for Phase 2 of the project during next year's grant application cycle. The final, formal notification should be arriving soon, followed by the grant agreement for review and signature.

You Can Help Make Backpacks For the Homeless



Throughout the year at the Community Soup Kitchen (36 South St., Morristown) we work with many guests who live on the streets and have weather-related injuries or illnesses. You can help to fight these dangers of homelessness by making a backpack for a homeless person.

Backpacks should contain:

- Men's work gloves or winter gloves
- Men's underwear size 36, 38 or 40
- Men's white cotton "tube" socks
- Men's white cotton undershirts (size XL, XXL or XXXL)
- Baseball hats or winter hats
- Optional: Blanket or sleeping bag, toothbrush, toothpaste, razors and shaving cream

Thank you for fighting homelessness in your community!

Contact the Soup Kitchen office at 973-267-0709 with questions. Backpacks can be dropped off any weekday between **10 a.m.-2 p.m. until August 31.**

(Located behind offices of the Church of the Redeemer)

Faith Developments

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that it's been a month since I wrote my last newsletter column. Even though it's summer, a lot is happening!



I wrote my last column just before heading to Portland, Oregon, for General Assembly. For those of you who don't know, General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists. At GA there is always something going on: worship, workshops, plenary, networking and professional meetings. And that doesn't include meeting UUs from around the country and connecting with old friends. It's you and 6,500 of your best friends!

This year's theme for General Assembly was Choices that Matter. During GA there were small-group discussions in which UUs came together to draft a series of statements that will shape the mission of the UUA in the future. Thirty statements in all were created; you can view them at www.uua.org/documents/ga/070623_ost_statements.pdf.

Two of the statements focused on creating inter-generational communities of lifelong learners. And while the statements don't tell you how to do that, I did attend a workshop that had some ideas.

The Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) sponsors a lecture each year named after Sophia Lyon Fahs, a famous Unitarian religious educator. This year's lecture was given by Dr. William Doherty. Doherty is a psychologist and professor at the University of Minnesota, in the Department of Family Social Science. He is also a UU.

In looking at how our UU families spend time together, he realized that we have no specifically UU holidays. I've even heard some of you say this! Well, Doherty came up with a solution.

Doherty says that parents and family members are the primary religious educators. So how do you bring Unitarian Universalism into the home? He and several volunteers have created a curriculum of UU Suppers. These are intergenerational potluck dinners with family and friends to celebrate major events in

Unitarian Universalist history. Not only are they a way to bring Unitarian Universalism into the home, but they ground the entire family in UU heritage and help us to remember those people, ideas and events that make our faith what it is today.

The curriculum isn't available yet – but are there ways that we can do some of this now? What are some of the ways that your family celebrates Unitarian Universalism?

In Faith,

RE News:

Pardon our progress! You may have notice a couple in progress paint jobs upstairs. The RE Council and lots of other volunteers will be working hard this summer to spiff up our RE classrooms for fall.

Help Needed! Know how to wield a paintbrush? Spiffy with spackle? We need paint and prep volunteers. Please contact Diana West at 908-876-7788 or dwest@bfar.org if you can help.

Teachers Rock! Have you experienced the joy of working with our children and youth? This is a very special job with rewards that last a lifetime. Can you make a commitment to the youngest members of our community? If you're interested in teaching RE, contact Kim Mason, IDRE.



Like Food? Join August 26 Service

Pat de la Fuente is looking for participants in the August 26 service on "Eating Locally, Thinking Globally," to share brief reflections on their connections to food – especially if you have lived on a farm or grown your own food. Contact Pat at karasr@optonline.net.

Social Justice Council

August 2007 Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need



Looking Forward ...the 2d Annual MUF Family Festival of Peace has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 23 - featuring Peace-focused service, workshop activities planned for each child's grade level on "peace topics," BRUNCH ... three post-brunch adult workshops and directed, outdoor, noncompetitive play/games for all children. Loads of fun topped off with Family Peace Concert featuring special guests: Big Jeff and his Middle-Sized Band. This will be a fantastic kickoff to our MUF autumn together! Come with your hearts, minds, and appetite open for something BIG.

Morristown Habitat for Humanity Builds –Calling All Handy People! Sign up for MUF autumn work parties. Contact Joe Uhrhane at joeuhr@optonline.net if you'd like more information, or want to sign on!

Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – Next Hosting Date: Tuesday, August 14! Thanks, MUF members, for helping cook great summer food for more than 100 neighbors. Cold casseroles, chili, etc., needed. Contact Sharon Glickman at foxwood2@optonline.net to let her know if you can help out...and what you could prepare that we really need.

The Spiritual Practices Covenant Group cooked chili and chicken soup at MUF on Sunday, July 8, for the soup kitchen. The guests enjoyed this food on July 10.

Eric Johnson House MUF Monthly Dinner Teams – Next host dates are Wednesdays, August 1 and 22 (5:45-7 p.m.). A funny, lively and very warmly receptive group of 10 residents. Join other MUF members/friends in hosting responsibilities. Join in by cooking within our meal preparation rotation or by attending the meals with MUF's party for the evening. Let Susan Spencer know at sespencer@optonline.net if you want to be a part of this very special outreach to formerly homeless people who are recuperating from the toll that AIDS/HIV takes on their bodies and spirits.

Morristown Homeless Solutions (shelter) monthly dinner commitment (next hosting, Saturday, August 11 (4:45-7 p.m.) continues under leadership of Judy O'Neil Goldberg at judyoneil@optonline.net. If you are an adult, or a family with junior high and older children that you can accompany, prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents.

Next Meeting Social Justice Council – Thursday, August 9, 7:30-9 p.m. – Join other MUF members as we plan how to help Morristown neighbors in need...and help our greater communities across the US and world. We have great work to do, and nine Social Action Groups to capture your heart. Join us and add your ideas and energy to changing the world a little bit every day. For real.

Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed

Perhaps you've noticed that our coffee hours have been a little nicer and more welcoming because of the snacks that are being offered each week. This is because committees and individuals volunteer to host a Sunday. Coffee is made by the staff. Volunteers simply set up whatever snacks they'd like to bring. If you or your committee is interested in hosting a particular Sunday, please contact Dan Cohen at danielcohen@optonline.net.



Upcoming Events

Minstrel Coffeehouse Fridays, 8:30 p.m. August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

More information from www.folkproject.org or 973-335-9489.

Evening of Aquasize at the Beach Wednesday, August 15, 6-9 p.m.

Join Geri Silk for an evening of fun and exercise at Hoffman Beach, Lake Parsippany, Lakeshore Drive, Parsippany. A nominal fee of \$10 for attendees. BYOB and bring appetizer to share, snacks and beach chair. For those participating in the Aquasize class, bring an empty gallon jug; Geri will provide the other "props." For further information, contact Geri Silk, or Kathy Burgess at kathyb.41@verizon.net. Directions will be forthcoming.

First Monday Book Group Monday, September 10, 7 p.m.

The First Monday Book Group will NOT meet in August. We will be meeting the SECOND Monday in September in Room 208 to discuss *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls. Come and help us start the year off right, and bring suggestions for future books to read and discuss. Any questions or suggestions, please contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com for details.

Betsy Burr Seeks Participants in 50th Anniversary Show

Betsy Burr is seeking actors and directors for a play on Saturday, October 27, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the purchase of our building and grounds.

If you are interested in taking part, contact Betsy at burrs@att.net.

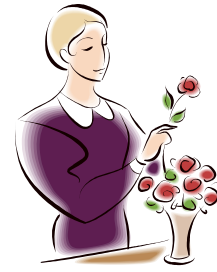
Meanwhile, **SAVE THAT DATE!**



THANK YOU to Jules and Vivian Lipcon for their donation to us of a harpsichord, which Jules built 37 years ago as a gift to Vivian.

New Crafters Group Begins with Floral Arranging Friday, September 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Do you wish you could find more time to be creative while enjoying the company of other like-minded MUFers? Beginning in September, there will be an opportunity each month for MUFers to come together, enjoy each other's company and have fun crafting.



Please plan to join us if you would like to learn the art of floral arranging from an experienced floral designer.

There will be a modest cost to cover expenses for the evening. Please pre-register by contacting Donna Becker at writeme79@juno.com by September 10. Please bring a potluck dessert to share.

We look forward to learning how to knit and crochet on Friday, October 19, from some of our more experienced members. Please contact Donna if you would be able to help teach those who are new to these crafts.

"Twelfth Night" Production at MUF Monday, August 6, 7:30 p.m.

The Next Stage Ensemble of New Jersey's Shakespeare Festival joins the Gay Activist Alliance in Morris County for the festival's touring production at MUF. These young thespians will present *Twelfth Night*, in "Travel Size"! This is an annual event for GAAMC and the Next Stage Ensemble Company. Tickets are available at the door at \$6 for non-members and \$4 for members of GAAMC.

In one of Shakespeare's most lyrical comedies, a twin brother and sister are separated by a disastrous shipwreck and cast ashore in the land of Illyria, each thinking that the other is dead. As they cross paths with scheming servants, a grieving beauty and a wise fool, the result is a compelling, funny and bittersweet tale of unrequited love, newfound hope and irrepressible festivity.

For further information, e-mail info@GAAMC.org or visit GAAMC's website at www.gaamc.org for directions.



Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

To assure the privacy of our members and friends, we have now removed all “Joys and Concerns” and personal telephone numbers from the online newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter in the Members Only section of our website includes the complete information.

Tell Us Your Joys & Concerns

Remember—the joys and concerns you write on cards to be read on Sunday mornings do not reach other members of the congregation unless you specifically authorize their listing in this newsletter by checking the Newsletter box or sending them to melodylingers@verizon.net.

Joys and Concerns Experiment

Please fill out this questionnaire - or use a separate piece of paper - and return to Rev. Alison Miller's mailbox, or e-mail your responses to amiller@muuf.org. Thank you.

1. What do you believe is the primary purpose for Joys & Concerns?

2. What do you appreciate or like about the traditional way we do Joys & Concerns?

3. What do you appreciate or like about the experimental way we have been doing Joys & Concerns?

4. What suggestions do you have to improve Joys & Concerns?

Rev. Greg Geiger's Talk on August 19

There is a deep need in our world to seek a more realized sense of justice in our communities, in our lives and on our earth. Because the problems are so pervasive, it often seems like it's too hard to start anywhere, that our individual contributions can't amount to much. We'll take a look at what these challenges mean to us personally, communally and spiritually and how we can feel inspired again in the face of the seemingly impossible.

Contributions to the Endowment Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund, or the Celebration of Life Fund are special ways of honoring family and friends. Your gifts will be acknowledged and appreciated.



TO ASSURE PRIVACY of our members and friends, all “Joys and Concerns,” personal telephone numbers and home addresses are removed from the *public* online newsletter. The Members Only copy includes the full information.

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The Second Annual Family Festival of Peace has been rescheduled for **Sunday, September 23**. See page 5.

Dated Material – Mailed: July 27, 2007
Deadline for the SEPTEMBER issue is

AUGUST 15

Sunday Services One service at 10:00 a.m.



August 5 **Now Is the Time**

Coordinated by Tony Rutigliano

August 12 **Hitchhikers' Guide and UUs**

Douglas Adams, author of the five-part *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* trilogy, professed himself to be a “radical atheist.” His writings, however, provide many clues that he might well have pulled another “fast one” with his readers and actually been a UU. Join us as Arthur Dent provides a humorous examination of Mr. Adams' works through the lenses of our UU Seven Principles, Three Affirmations and Covenant Statement.

Presented by Steve Rice

August 19 **Corn in the Beans**

See page 7 for description.

Presented by Rev. Greg Geiger

August 26 **Eating Locally, Thinking Globally**

Barbara Kingsolver and family, in their book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, and Bill McKibben, in *Deep Economy*, have focused on the importance of understanding where and how our food is grown. Both writers devoted themselves to a “year of eating locally.” Would we be able to do this, in our Garden State? How does the source of our food relate to global issues of social justice? Several MUF members will offer their reflections; we will serve local produce as refreshments, and we invite you to join us at the Farmers Market after the service. We hope this morning will feed your soul and provide much food for thought.

Coordinated by Pat de la Fuente

